**Building of roads in Naxal infested regions**

3359. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to improve accessibility in Naxal infested regions, the Union Government has decided to prepare an action plan to build roads in the Naxal hit States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has been entrusted with the task of construction/development of National Highways in Naxal affected areas;

(d) if so, whether any special budgetary provision has been made for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a task force to promote coordinated efforts to tackle the Naxal problems in a comprehensive manner which *inter-alia* includes the development of roads in the affected areas. As such, it is too early to indicate the details of any action plan.

(c) This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of the National Highways in the country including the Naxal affected areas.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Modernisation of MMD**

3360. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to modernise the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) in order to help small firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that age old systems and practices in MMD have affected the health of the marine sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to improve the functioning of the MMD in order to help the fisheries sector?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) There are no schemes in Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) at present to specifically help only the small firms. Government has initiated several steps to modernize and streamline the functioning of the MMD which have been reoriented to shift focus from the role of regulator to facilitator. Part of statutory functions has been delegated to the recognized organizations and E-Governance has been introduced to further streamline various statutory functions discharged by MMDs. In addition, the workload generated by

the expanding marine training has been reviewed in order to streamline and systematize the work of inspections, approvals, admissions and examinations to ensure transparency, responsibility and the maintenance of the higher standards of quality by technological up-gradations. The Right to Information Act has been implemented in letter and spirit thereby ensuring greater transparency to public. There is a well laid down redressal mechanism, which includes online submission of grievances directly to the Directorate General of Shipping. Besides, Citizen's Charter has been displayed on the website.

The Directorate General of Shipping and MMDs deal with registration, manning, survey, etc. of the fishing vessels, under the provisions of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. The Directorate General of Shipping in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture initiates requisite measures from time to time to help the fisheries sector.

**Road accidents and proposals of Road Safety Forum**

3361. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highways in the country which have high rates of accidents, highway-wise, State-wise;

(b) whether various Road Safety Forums particularly Road Safety Forum from South have sent proposals in this respect to the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details of such proposals;

(d) the reasons for neglecting safety matters; and

(e) the steps taken by the Central Government to chalk out a comprehensive plan in consultation with State Government and Road Safety Forums to reduce road accidents on National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The National Highway-wise road accident data is not compiled by this Ministry. As per the report by the States/UTs, the details regarding road accident on National Highways during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 (the latest available data) for all the States/UTs are annexed, as Statement.

[Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unsterred Question to 3345 Part (a)]

(b) and (c) Yes, The proposals have been received by National Highways Authority of India from Road Safety Forum, Pollavaram, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh for:

(i) Construction of pedestrian foot overbridge, at Gundugulanu on NH 5 in Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) Declaring 100 day no accident zone between Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam zone.

(iii) Check on increasing speeds.

(iv) Site visit by the officers of Ministry and the National Highways Authority of India.

(v) Removal of liquor shops along the highways.

(d) and (e) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State